

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

NUTRITION SERVICES - WIC

130 Seward Street, Room 508

P.O. BOX 110612

JUNEAU, AK 99811-0612

PHONE: (907) 465-3100 FAX: 465-3416

April 3, 2008

Dear Farmer:

Spring is almost here and it's time to prepare for the upcoming 2008 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). All farmers and markets that wish to participate in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program during 2008 need to complete an application form, and sign an agreement. In addition, all farmers must complete the banking information form.

As of November 1, 2007, the Alaska WIC program implemented a new process for how Alaska FMNP warrants are redeemed. The most important change is that this is a "pre-edit" system, in which **all** WIC & FMNP warrants will be screened by the bank prior to payment. All WIC FMNP authorized farmers must indicate to the WIC program which bank account should be used so WIC can include this information in the data files provided to KeyBank. This information verifies to KeyBank that you are authorized to take FMNP coupons and is kept confidential. **Please provide your banking information on the attached form with your application and signed agreement by May 15, 2008.**

If you need a new rubber stamp or sign, please make a note on your application form and we will be glad to send them to you.

Reminders for the WIC FMNP 2008 season:

- Deadline for applications is May 15
- Starting date for WIC FMNP coupons to be used is June 1
- Each coupon will have a \$ 5.00 value
- WIC participants will receive \$25 worth
- Authorized farmers will receive an annual 2008 decal that should be displayed on FMNP sign

The Farmer Application, Agreement and Banking Information Forms for the 2008 season are enclosed. Please complete the required forms, sign the agreement and return them to the address below by May 15, 2008. Applications will be considered after that date on a case-by-case situation.

FMNP Coordinator
DPA/Family Nutrition Program
130 Seward Street, Rm. 508
Juneau, AK 99801

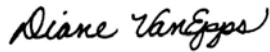
If you sell at a Farmers' Market you may be able to turn the forms in to your market manager and he or she can forward them to the State WIC Office. It is important that we receive this information promptly so we can provide the dates, hours and locations of all markets and farm stands to WIC participants by the end of May.

If you are in an area where the Senior FMNP is offered, you will receive further information about redemption of Senior FMNP coupons at a later date.

If you have any questions or information to share, please contact me by phone at (907) 465-4704 or by email at: diane.vanepps@alaska.gov

Thank you very much for participating in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and providing nutritious, fresh produce to WIC participants in Alaska. I look forward to working with you during this Farmers' Market season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane VanEpps".

Diane VanEpps
WIC Farmers' Market Coordinator

enclosures

cc: FMNP File: 0